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10/522,625	01/31/2005	Takashi Imoto	03500.017510.	1853

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EXAMINER

ZHANG, FAN

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2625

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PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/522,625	Applicant(s) IMOTO, TAKASHI	
	Examiner FAN ZHANG	Art Unit 2625	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 04 August 2010.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-8 and 11-14 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-8 and 11-14 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Arguments

1. Applicant's remarks on amended independent claims received on August 04, 2010 have been acknowledged, but not found persuasive. Claims 1-8 and 11-14 remain rejected and claims 9 and 10 are cancelled.

With respect to amended independent claims, Applicant argues that the cited references fail to teach the claimed invention. Examiner respectfully disagrees. The inventive concept of the claimed invention is to have multiple users logon to the same operating system/program, activate a display session simultaneously, and allow obtained printer/print job status information to be transferred and displayed automatically on any of the user sessions based on the corresponding user login so that the status information can be forward to the right person in time. As discussed with Applicant's Attorney in the previous phone interview, Examiner believed that all the limitations had either been explicitly taught by or obvious under the combined teaching of the cited prior arts. For instance, Gallacher reference teaches transferring printer status information and display it on the corresponding user's active session based on proper login. Gallacher does not describe a situation in which a plurality of users simultaneously logon to the operating system of a single information processing apparatus. Calaway and Tsao references disclose multiple user logins and activate the same program. Although not a single reference alone teaches both having multiple users logon to an active session and having printer status information transferred and displayed on any of the active sessions accordingly, given the fact the printer status

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information can be notified to any of the corresponding users once they logon to an active sessions and the fact that multiple users can logon to and display the active sessions simultaneously, it would have been obvious for an ordinary skilled in the art to combine all the existing elements to make the claimed invention happen for making a prompt and user specified printer status notification in a resource/space/program shared environment.

Response to Amendments

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103 (a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. **Claims 1-6, 11, 12, and 14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gallacher (US Pub: 2003/0227647) and in further view of Nishiyama (US Pub: 2002/0036790), Calaway (US Pub: 2002/0012134), and Tsao (US Patent: 7,418,702).**

Regarding claim 1 (Currently Amended), Gallacher teaches: A notifying method of notifying a user of information regarding an image processing apparatus which communicates with an information processing apparatus wherein the information processing apparatus can simultaneously provide, for each user who log-on to an

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operating system of the information processing apparatus, an environment, as an independent user session, in which a program desired by the user can be activated, the method comprising: a print data transmitting step of transmitting print data to the image processing apparatus [p0018]; a receiving step of receiving the information regarding the image processing apparatus, the information being transmitted from the image processing apparatus in one of the user sessions for a first user of the plurality of users activating a first display program, wherein the receiving step is started without waiting for a request from the first user [p0022, p0024, p0030, p0032 (Receiving notification is being started by activating a first display program illustrated in figs. 4 and 5. The notification would pop-up on a user's display automatically without waiting for the user's request.)];

an activating step of activating a second display program in order to display the information regarding the image processing apparatus received in the receiving step on the display unit occupied in the active session specified in the specifying step, wherein the second display program is an application which can be activated in the active session for displaying information; an information transmitting step of transmitting the information received in the receiving step to the activated second display program activated in the activating step; and a displaying step of displaying, in response to the information transmitting step transmitting the received information, the transmitted information on the display unit of the information processing apparatus occupied in the active session through the second display program [p0024, p0032, p0035 (The specified active session here is login session. The second display program is activated

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when another user who is assigned as a notification receiver in fig. 5 properly logs on to the information processing apparatus. The notification pop-up window operates based on username so it would not be transmitted to or displayed for those that are not designated viewers or if a designated viewer does not log on.)).

To further illustrate the feature that certain print status information only pops up on a screen after a proper user name is entered, Nishiyama of the same field of endeavor disclose it in [figs. 16 and 17]. Therefore, it would have been obvious for an ordinary skilled in the art to apply combine teaching of the two to activate a notification display program based on proper login for security reason.

Gallacher does not describe a situation in which a plurality of users simultaneously logon to the operating system of a single information processing apparatus. In the same field of endeavor, both Calaway and Tsao teach: for each of a plurality of users who simultaneously log-on to an operating system of the information processing apparatus, an environment, as an independent user session, in which a program desired by the user can be activated; a specifying step of specifying an active session from among the independent user sessions for another of the plurality of users, who simultaneously log-on to the operating system of the information processing apparatus, different from the predetermined user, wherein the other user can exclusively occupy a display unit of the information processing apparatus to operate the information processing apparatus and wherein the active session occupies the display unit of the information processing apparatus in which the plurality of users simultaneously log-on to the operating system [Calaway: p0079, p0080, Tsao: Abstract].

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Having a plurality of user logon to a single computer/server simultaneously and allowing each user to exclusively occupy a display unit of the computer/server have been well known in the art as prescribed by both Calaway and Tsao. Therefore, giving Gallacher's teaching on automatic pop-up notification to designated users who log on various computers and Calaway and Tsao's teaching on multiple user simultaneously logging on a single computer, it would have been an obvious alternative for an ordinary skilled in the art to substitute one single information processing apparatus for a plurality of information processing apparatuses to allow notification pop-up windows to be transmitted to and displayed on the screen of the information processing apparatus once a proper user logs on so that multiple users who share the same information processing apparatus would obtain the corresponding print job information for the purposes of space reservation and resource sharing.

Regarding claim 2 (Currently Amended), the rationale applied to the rejection of claim 1 has been incorporated herein. Nishiyama further teaches: A method according to claim 1, further comprising: an existence information receiving step of receiving existence information showing that the second display program has been activated in the specified active session [p0072-p0075, figs. 14-17]; and an activation discriminating step of discriminating whether the second display program has been activated in the specified active session on the basis of the received existence information [fig. 13: units S52 and S54], wherein the information transmitting step transmits the information received in the receiving step to the second display program

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activated in the specified active session if the activation discrimination step discriminates that the second display program has been activated [fig. 13: units S53, S55-S57].

Regarding claim 3 (Previously Presented), the rationale applied to the rejection of claim 1 has been incorporated herein. Nishiyama further teaches: A method according to claim 1, further comprising a step of, if a plurality of display programs have been activated by the active session specified in the specifying step, finishing one of the plurality of display programs [figs. 4, 9, 12, and 13: END].

Regarding claim 4 (Currently Amended), the rationale applied to the rejection of claim 1 has been incorporated herein. Nishiyama further teaches: A method according to claim 1, wherein each of the first display program and the second display program is a program for displaying information regarding a print job issued to the image processing apparatus or information regarding a status of the image processing apparatus [p0067].

Regarding claim 5 (Currently Amended), the rationale applied to the rejection of claim 4 has been incorporated herein. Nishiyama further teaches: A method according to claim 4, further comprising: a user specifying step of specifying the user corresponding to the active session in which the second display program has been activated; and an issuance discriminating step of discriminating whether the print job of

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the user specified in the user specifying step has been issued to the image processing apparatus, wherein if it is determined that the print job has not been issued in the issuance discriminating step, the second display program is not activated [p0074]. In Nishiyama's teaching, print jobs are divided between confidential and common. The confidential print display program will not be activated unless user specification and job issued by the user are confirmed. Although a common print status display program is activated, confidential print status display program is not activated as it is discriminated that Tanaka has not issued a print job as exemplified in p0074. However, all the print jobs could be converted to confidential status so that none of the display programs would be activated. Therefore, it would have been an obvious variation of Nishiyama's exemplification for an ordinary skilled in the art to apply confidential print status to all the print jobs so that none of the display programs will be activated when user does not issue a print job for the purpose of simplicity and less confusion.

Regarding claim 6 (Currently Amended), the rationale applied to the rejection of claim 1 has been incorporated herein. Nishiyama further teaches: A method according to claim 1, further comprising: a necessity discriminating step of discriminating whether the information is information which needs to be displayed on the basis of the information received in the receiving step [fig. 13: units S52 and S54], wherein the second display program is activated in the active session specified in the specifying step if the necessity discriminating step discriminates that the information is the information which needs to be displayed [fig. 13: units S53-57]. Also see [p0067-

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p0070].

Claim 11 (Currently Amended) has been analyzed and rejected with regard to claim 1.

Claim 12 (Currently Amended) has been analyzed and rejected with regard to claim 1 and in accordance with Nishiyama's further teaching on: A computer-readable memory medium which stores a program for controlling an information processing apparatus [p0088].

Regarding claim 14 (Currently Amended), the rationale applied to the rejection of claim 1 has been incorporated herein. Nishiyama further teach: A method according to claim 1, wherein the specifying step specifies the active session for the second user different from the first user based on information obtained in a step of obtaining active session information in order to discriminate the active session occupying the display unit used by the second user from the user sessions [figs. 15-17: User Name & Password entry (The active session of user name & password entry specifies one of a plurality of users to obtain information regarding the image processing apparatus.)].

4. Claims 7 and 8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gallacher (US Pub: 2003/0227647), Nishiyama (US Pub: 2002/0036790),

Calaway (US Pub: 2002/0012134), and Tsao (US Patent: 7,418,702); and in further view of Parry (US Pub: 2003/0077097).

Regarding claim 7 (Currently Amended), the rationale applied to the rejection of claim 1 has been incorporated herein. Nishiyama further teaches: A method according to claim 1, further comprising: a condition obtaining step of obtaining condition information in which conditions in which the information regarding the image processing apparatus is displayed and conditions in which the information is not displayed have been described [fig. 13, p0067-p0070]. Nishiyama does not execute display based on the status of an apparatus. Gallacher on the other hand allows a window to be popped up when a print job has completed [p0024]. In the same field of endeavor, Parry teaches: a status discriminating step of discriminating whether the image processing apparatus is in a status (normal or non-error status) where it is necessary to display the information regarding the image processing apparatus on the basis of the condition information and the information received in said receiving step; and a step of finishing the second display program if the status discriminating step discriminates that the image processing apparatus is not in the status [p0041, figs 3. Error message is displayed when the apparatus is not in normal status.]. Discriminating the status of an apparatus to activate a display program has been well known and practiced in the art as prescribed by Parry. Therefore, given Nishiyama's teachings on user condition and identification, Gallacher's teaching on pop-up display, and Parry's disclosure on apparatus status for activating a display program, it would have been obvious for an ordinary skilled in the art to combine the teaching of the all to display

printing information when both user condition and apparatus status are met for providing user relevant error messages on the related printing jobs.

Claim 8 (Currently Amended) has been analyzed and rejected with regard to claim 7. (No message is sent to a computer for displaying when it is determined that there is no error associated with the image processing apparatus [fig. 13, p0067-p0070].)

5. **Claim 13 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gallacher (US Pub: 2003/0227647), Nishiyama (US Pub: 2002/0036790), Calaway (US Pub: 2002/0012134), and Tsao (US Patent: 7,418,702); and in further view of Hamada (US Pub: 2002/0103885).**

Regarding claim 13 (Currently Amended), the rationale applied to the rejection of claim 1 has been incorporated herein. Gallacher, Nishiyama, Calaway, and Tsao do not explicitly disclose activating a print service program upon obtaining the information regarding the image processing apparatus. In the same field of endeavor, Hamada teaches: A method according to claim 1, wherein the first user is a user for the user session in which a print service program can be activated in the information processing apparatus upon receiving the information regarding the image processing apparatus [p0117 (A print service program such as re-sending data is activated upon obtaining error information regarding a printer once a predetermined user authenticity is checked.)]. Given Nishiyama's prescription on detecting error information of a printer in

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p0003 and Hamada's disclosure on activating a data re-sending program, it would have been obvious for an ordinary skilled in the art to modify the combined teaching of Gallacher, Nishiyama, Calaway, and Tsao to include a print service program upon obtaining information regarding a printer's status after performing user authentication for providing user an efficient printing process service.

Conclusion

6. Applicant's amendment does not necessitate new grounds of rejection in this Office Action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Contact

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Fan Zhang whose telephone number is (571) 270-3751.

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The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri from 8:00-5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Mark K. Zimmerman can be reached on (571) 272-7653. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

/Fan Zhang/

Patent Examiner

/Twyler L. Haskins/

Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2625